

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2000 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

PROJECT NUMBER: 5

- I. Project Title: **Wyoming Program Management**
- II. Principal Investigator: John W. Shields, Interstate Streams Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Herschler Building, 4th East, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0370
Phone: (307) 777-6151 Fax: (307) 777-5451
E-Mail Address: jshiel@state.wy.us
- III. Project Summary: Wyoming's program management objectives and accomplishments during this reporting year included: 1) providing staff assistance and support to the Implementation, Management and Biology Committees and to the USFWS in implementing the Recovery Program; 2) participating in the activities and deliberations of the technical committees and ad-hoc subcommittees; 3) coordinating with other Program participants to accomplish Program objectives and tasks; 4) working to secure Wyoming Legislative, Congressional and Administration support for Program appropriations and support for the federal authorization and funding legislation; and 4) providing public information and developing understanding and support for the Recovery Implementation Program on the part of Wyoming officials, citizens and water users.
- IV. Study Schedule: Wyoming continues to receive credit for our program participation and management actions carried out for the Recovery Program, hence this project will continue throughout the term of the Recovery Program's Cooperative Agreement. Fiscal Year 2000 was the seventh year that Wyoming received in-kind services credit for our program management activities.
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP: Wyoming's Program Management activities address RIPRAP Item VII ("provide program planning and support [program management]") and its components under the "General Recovery Program Support Action Plan."
- VI. Accomplishment of FY 2000 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: During the course of Fiscal Year 2000, John Shields participated in the activities and responsibilities of the Management Committee and performing duties associated with being the Committee's chairperson. He also participated as a member of the Water Acquisition Committee and Information and Education Committee. Paul Dey of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department ably represented Wyoming on the Biology Committee. Due to the efforts of involved Wyoming personnel, the following accomplishments and activities occurred:
 - 1) Coordinated the State of Wyoming's participation in and positions on Recovery Program activities. Advised Wyoming's Implementation Committee member, Wyoming's Governor and staff, the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and their staff, the public and affected state agencies about the Program.
 - 2) Represented the State of Wyoming at Biology Committee, technical committee, subcommittee and ad-hoc group meetings.
 - 3) Reviewed, edited and commented on proposals, scopes-of-work, annual reports, project reports, planning documents and administrative records prepared by Recovery Program participants as appropriate and necessary.

- 4) Participated in the development of the annual Recovery Program budget and work plan subsequently approved by the Implementation Committee.
- 5) Participated in updating the Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan (RIPRAP) subsequently approved by the Implementation Committee.
- 6) Communicated with federal agency personnel and assisted in preparing documents involved in transferring funds for Recovery Program-sanctioned work and generally assisted in carrying out Program activities and initiatives.
- 7) Responded to requests for information concerning the Recovery Program by the Wyoming Congressional delegation, the public, other state agencies and other Program participants. Made a 30-minute presentation to the Wyoming Water Association at its annual meeting. Made presentations on an ongoing basis to the Green River Basin Advisory Group.
- 8) Assisted in making arrangements for and participated in the annual briefing of the affected States' Congressional delegations, Congressional authorization and appropriations committee staff, Federal agency officials and staff in Washington, D.C. to develop support for Recovery Program funding line-items included in the President's budget. Assisted with the circulation of the annual Congressional delegation joint letter to the appropriation subcommittee chairmen expressing our Congressional delegations' support for Recovery Program funding. Assisted in follow-up contacts thanking those we met with for their interest and support and providing additional information requested during those meetings. Prepared the summary report of the Washington briefing trip.
- 9) Participated in meetings and activities associated with putting the federal authorization and funding support legislation into final form, requesting hearings on the bill before Congressional committees, preparation and submittal of testimony on behalf of the Governor of Wyoming, involved state agencies and the state-wide water users association. Made repeated contacts with staff of the Wyoming Congressional delegation to gain their support and co-sponsorship of the legislation.
- 10) Participated in the activities, conference calls and meetings of the Yampa River PBO Working Group, including development of the Yampa River Endangered Fish Recovery and Water Management Plan and the Yampa River Basin Programmatic Biological Opinion. Coordinated with Wyoming's engineering consultant and local conservation district leaders and staff in developing estimates of Wyoming's current consumptive use and of reasonably foreseeable water project depletions through 2045 in Wyoming's portion of the Yampa River Basin for inclusion in analyses that will support the issuance of the programmatic biological opinion.

Shortcomings: Despite our best efforts, we were unable to obtain the support of Wyoming's two United States Senators for the funding authorization legislation and their signatures on the joint-delegation funding support letters. Not every meeting of the Water Acquisition Committee

was attended due to other commitments and scheduling difficulties.

VII. Recommendations: The following recommendations and comments are provided after reflection on our Program participation during Fiscal Year 2000:

1. Wyoming's Recovery Program committee representatives are pleased to note the increasing use of the Program Participants' World Wide Web Page for sharing Program information and documents. Use of the Program list-server has continued to increase and several additional list-servers are being or have been used in conjunction with the development of the 15-Mile Reach Biological Opinion and the Yampa River Programmatic Biological Opinion Working Group.
2. Wyoming recommends the Program Tracking System be put into routine, every-day use by the Recovery Program staff and that its use as a management tool be increased.
3. We continue to believe that greater specificity (both in project and task definition and in cost estimation) is needed in the RIPRAP, as well as improved mechanisms to prioritize the funding and conduct of activities in the RIPRAP for the reason that competition for available funding and the need for appropriate sequencing of activities will continue to intensify over time.

VIII. Project Status: Wyoming's Program Management is considered to be both ongoing and on-track. Efforts associated with the funding legislation and the efforts to secure appropriations through the Congressional budget process required much time and effort, but we have succeeded in getting the federal legislation enacted into law and are making progress with the cost-sharing mechanisms/arrangements for incorporating the agreed-upon non-federal capital construction cost-sharing into the Program. Time requirements for carrying out Biology Committee tasks and functions have continued to increase.

IX.	FY 2000 Budget:	A.	Funds Provided:	\$13,200
		B.	Funds Expended:	\$13,200
		C.	Difference:	\$0
		D.	Percent of the FY2000 Work Completed and Projected Costs to Complete:	Not applicable
		E.	Program funds spent for publication charges:	None

X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable.

XI. Signed: /s/ John W. Shields, Management Comm. Member Dated: December 20, 2000